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Memorandum of Conversation 745j.5-MSP

Approved by PCB 7/1/60

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DATE: June 15, 1960

SUBJECT: Volta River Project, U.S.-Ghana Double Taxation Treaty, and U.S. Technical Assistance to Ghana

PARTICIPANTS: The Acting Secretary, Mr. C. D. Dillon
William M. Q. Halm, Ambassador of Ghana
Richard Akwei, Counselor of Embassy of Ghana
AFS - William L. Wight, Jr.
AFS - Marcel Van Essen

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Ambassador Halm recalled that soon after his appointment to the United States, in conversations at the Department, he had been requested to indicate Ghana's needs in the field of U.S. assistance. Subsequently, he wrote to President Nkrumah and received a letter from him in reply stating Ghana's needs, which included scholarships, the Volta River Project and Technical Assistance. Since he was returning to Ghana next week to attend the ceremonies of the proclamation of the Republic of Ghana, and the inauguration of Nkrumah as its first President, he said he would appreciate receiving the Acting Secretary's views on the above-mentioned matters for discussion with his government. (At this point, the Ambassador showed the Acting Secretary a confidential letter he had received, presumably from Nkrumah).

Mr. Dillon replied that on the whole the efforts of the United States to meet Ghana's needs had showed encouraging progress.

1. Volta River Project. Mr. Dillon said that the World Bank had completed its study of the feasibility of this project. He had been informed informally that Mr. Black during his recent trip to Ghana had told the Government of Ghana that this report would be in its hands by the end of June. This would be followed in July by the visit of a team of World Bank experts who could answer any pertinent questions the Government of Ghana might ask. Following this, the Government of Ghana was expected to submit its formal request for a World Bank loan. Although he had not seen the report, the Acting Secretary said he had been told that it reflected the feasibility of the Volta Project.

2. U.S.-Ghana

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2. U.S.-Ghana Double Taxation Treaty. Mr. Dillon said that he was fully aware of the importance to U.S. private aluminum interests, and to Ghana, that the U.S.-Ghana Double Taxation Treaty be concluded as soon as possible. He noted that the preliminary discussion held at Treasury earlier this week with a Ghana tax expert indicated that existing differences could be resolved soon.

The Acting Secretary informed Ambassador Halm that the U.S.-India Double Taxation Treaty now being examined by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee would be the first such treaty which included precedent-making elements applicable to the proposed U.S.-Ghana Treaty. Although hope for ratification of a U.S.-Ghana Treaty during this session of Congress was very remote, favorable action by Congress on the U.S.-India Treaty would certainly constitute a favorable indication for the passage of the U.S.-Ghana Treaty.

3. Technical Assistance. The Acting Secretary noted that cooperation between USOM and the Government of Ghana was unusually good in that all the requests made so far by Ghana to USOM had been granted. This reflected an exceptional working climate.

In summarizing his comments, the Acting Secretary said that on the whole the U.S. assistance efforts in Ghana had shown satisfactory progress. He concluded by saying that the United States was greatly interested in assisting Ghana and that it would continue its efforts in this direction.

Ambassador Halm thanked the Acting Secretary and indicated his complete satisfaction with the information given.

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